North-East border and inter-country trade issue and to report on trade opportunities and manufacturing potential for export in the North East.

8. The Government has also sanctioned two Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) in the North Eastern States of Meghalaya and Assam.

Annual accounts and reports of FIEO

2155. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federation of Indian Export Organisation held their annual general meeting on 29th May, 1998 to consider and pass annual accounts and annual reports for the year 1996-97 for laying on the Table of the House.

(b) what are the reasons for delay and whether any punishment or displeasure was communicated to FIEO;

(c) whether the President of FIEO has publicly announced on 29th May, 1998 in the above meeting to hold the next annual meeting before 30th September, 1998 to consider annual accounts and annual report for the year 1997-98; and

(d) if so, whether Government will ensure that this last date of next annual general meeting will be observed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Managing Committee of FIEO decided to invite Prime Minister of India to innugrate the Annual General Meeting of FIEO for the year 1996-97. Prime Minister could bot spare the time to innugrate the AGM and hence the delay. Ministry of Commerce has written to FIEO to hold the AGM within the specified time and also intimated the concern for delay.

(c) and (d) President, FIEO indicated in the 32nd Annual General Meeting held on 29th May, 1998 that efforts would be made to hold the next Annual General Meeting in due course. Government has directed FIEO to hold the AGM within the prescribed time.

Decanalisation to Boost Mica Export

2156. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policy of decanalisation was adopted in 1990 to boost up mica trade, to give more employment and to earn more foreign exchange;

(b) if so, details of the result achieved on each point since decanalisation; and

(c) whether there has been any review of the policy, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While export of processed mica has declined after decanalisation (except in 1996-97), export of canalised mica scrap, cuttings and waste has increased. Export figures of processed mica and mica scrap for the last four years are enclosed. Statement *(See below)*. As regards employment, mica mining industry has sharply declined from 835 mines employing 25000 labour to 35 mines employing 2500 labour.

(c) The proposal for revival of mica industry has been engaging the attention of the Ministry. The proposal was reviewed in March, 1998. Various options to boost mica exports have been under consideration of the Ministry in consultation with the concerned Ministry/Departments. Efforts to increase exports including unit value realisation; and en-